

MIAMI WHITEWATER ELEMENTARY



Academic & Social growth for **ALL** students, **EVERY DAY!**

Parent/Guardian & Student Handbook 2026-2027

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Students, Parents & Guardians –

Welcome back Wildcats! Summer vacation gave everyone at Miami Whitewater Elementary the opportunity to rest, relax, and recharge so we can be even better for your kids this school year. We are thankful that you put your trust in our teachers and staff members to take excellent care of your most prized possession! Have confidence and faith that your child's safety and wellness is our top priority!

We are thrilled to lead our teachers and support staff in growing your child academically, socially, and emotionally. Education and working with children is our passion! As working moms and school leaders, we recognize the importance of a strong home-school connection. We understand the challenges families face, because we *live* them! Our admin team is ready to lead with strength and heart. Parents and guardians are every child's first teacher, and we believe that by working together, we can make sure that your child's academic, social, and emotional needs are met. It's exciting to see children through their parents' eyes, so please understand that our office doors will be open, and we welcome visitors at any time!

The Southwest Local School District takes great pride in providing research-based curriculum and technology to teachers and students. Amplify Desmos is our core tier 1 Mathematics program. Amplify's platform focused on a problem-based approach that helps students develop deep conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and application of Math concepts. Abre is an educational software platform for Miami Whitewater parents, guardians, and teachers that delivers a growing number of connected apps designed for schools who use the web to manage critical information and to deliver instructional content. Our tech team created a single sign-on portal for students, parents, and teachers. Southwest Local students will be 1:1 with technology once again this year. From Kindergarten through fifth grade, our young wildcats will have access to a laptop all day, every day. Our students will use this technology to engage and apply their learning at school, but do not take devices home. There is a statistically significant impact on student test scores in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science when children have access to technology daily.

Please know that while we use technology to supplement and enhance lessons, nothing could ever take the place of the direct instruction your child will receive from our phenomenal teachers! Many of our teachers have been taking advantage of summer courses and professional development to learn how to better utilize technology, implement the Orton Gillingham "Science of Reading" approach, and deconstruct Ohio's Learning Standards to improve daily instruction.

Last year was our fifth school year in our beautiful new building. It became abundantly clear from the very first day that Miami Whitewater Elementary opened its doors that it is truly a unique and special place. This will also be an amazing school year as we work together to ensure your child gets the best education possible. We are providing this handbook to you as a guide and road map to a successful school year. Please take the time to review the handbook with your son/daughter and feel free to contact us with any questions you may have regarding policies, procedures, activities or safety concerns at Miami Whitewater. We need you to take an active role in your child's education. When we partner with each other, it truly provides the best support system for your student. Thank you for your assistance and we look forward to a wonderful school year!

Truly,

Mrs. Mia Neckel, Principal

Mrs. Lindsey Long, Assistant Principal



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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

As part of the educational team, the students will:

- Respect the rights of others in the classroom, in the hallways, on the playground, and on the bus to and from school. This includes accepting individual differences in people, recognizing others' accomplishments, and showing respect for property.
- Work cooperatively with peers as a part of a school community which values helpfulness, thoughtfulness, and kindness toward others.
- Become aware of individual choices and their consequences.
- Behave in a manner which in no way interferes with the teaching and learning process.
- Take responsibility for completing all homework and assignments, and for coming to school prepared to learn, including having the appropriate materials.
- Have regular attendance to maximize learning opportunities.
- Be aware of school rules, student rights, and student responsibilities.
- Take an active and enthusiastic role in their studies, safety, and always strive for excellence.

As part of the educational team, parents will:

- Encourage their children to do their best and instill in them the importance of education in their daily lives and in their future.
- Send their children to school well-rested and ready to learn.
- See that their children complete homework assignments and come to school with the appropriate materials.
- See that their children attend regularly.
- Support the school on matters of discipline, school policies, and curriculum.
- Actively communicate and cooperate with staff members regarding their children.
- Take active roles in the school, sharing their ideas and/or giving their time to improve the school.
- Instill a sense of responsibility and guide students to accept responsibility for their choices.

As part of the educational team, teachers/the school will:

- Encourage students to ask questions and think critically.
- Ensure that individual help is provided, the importance of the individual is recognized, and that teachers actively listen to students.
- Instill in students the importance of rules, rights and responsibilities, and the relationship between them.
- Recognize individual differences by providing diverse materials, approaches, and settings for learning.
- Build productive, helpful, and caring relationships where positive reinforcement and student achievement are valued.
- Emphasize the importance of all areas of the curriculum
- Foster a love of learning and the importance of being a lifelong learner.
- Provide enjoyable, meaningful activities and enrichment opportunities for the students and parents.
- Actively communicate and cooperate with parents regarding the students.
- Provide educationally appropriate materials, facilities, and methods of instruction.
- Provide classroom organization, discipline, and enthusiasm which leads to optimal learning opportunities.
- Ensure that teacher learning occurs through collaboration and continuous staff development.
- Identify and address poor performance and/or academic difficulties.
- Recognize and celebrate effort and achievement.
- Challenge students to do their very best every day.



“Academic and Social Growth for ALL students, EVERY DAY!”

SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT’S GOALS FOR STUDENTS

The Southwest Local Board of Education recognizes the right of all students to a program of educational experiences which provides opportunities for the development of intellectual and creative talents to the full extent of their capabilities. Our educational programs are designed to encourage students’ academic self-discipline, intellectual curiosity, problem-solving strategies, and a willingness to assume responsible leadership roles. Our students are placed in our academic and non-academic programs based on their interests, needs, and aptitudes to maximize student achievement. Placement and grouping decisions are made by a team of educators based on objective criteria using a variety of assessment tools. Full-time counseling and psychological services are provided from Kindergarten through Grade 12 to facilitate the inclusion of students in appropriate academic and enrichment programs. Elementary Enrichment Academic extensions are provided by classroom teachers at the primary level. Those extensions focus on composition, beginning research, literature appreciation, communication skills, problem solving, and thinking skills. Placement is informal in short-term units to allow teachers to recommend students with various academic strengths. Our students will receive formal gifted services in the regular classroom through the general education teacher who has received Highly Qualified Professional Development (HQPD) in gifted education, and a Written Education Plan (WEP) will be developed for each of those students based on the area(s) of giftedness. Various differentiation strategies and enrichment opportunities should be designed to meet your students’ unique needs.

These strategies and opportunities may include, but are not limited to:

- Curriculum Compacting
- Varying pace of instruction
- Cluster grouping
- Collaborative projects
- Talent development (visual/performing arts)
- Adding depth and complexity to tasks
- Choice in process of products
- Combining standards
- Developing interdisciplinary units
- Adding rigor and relevance to standards
- Problem-solving and critical/creative thinking activities
- STEM and STEAM activities

INTERVENTION ASSISTANCE TEAM

Students who are experiencing difficulties in any area (academic, behavioral, speech, motor skills, etc.) will be recommended to the Intervention Assistance Team (IAT). This is a group of professionals who will meet with parents to discuss strengths, concerns, and strategies to help the individual child. All children will be referred to the IAT before any testing for a suspected disability takes place.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

SLSD, along with other school districts across the state of Ohio, is participating to identify, locate, and evaluate all students who may be in need of special education and related services. [Ohio Revised Code Section 2232.01](#) defines “child with a disability” as a child who is between 3 and 22 years of age; who has an intellectual disability, a hearing impairment (including deafness), a speech or language impairment (including blindness), a serious emotional disturbance, an orthopedic impairment, Autism Spectrum Disorder, traumatic brain injury, another health impairment, a specific learning disability (including dyslexia), deaf-blindness, or multiple disabilities; and who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services”. “Child with a disability” may also refer to a child between the ages of 3 and 10 who experiences developmental delays, as defined by standards adopted by the Department of Education in one or more of the following areas: physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development, or adaptive development; and who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.

Many children with disabilities are not visible because they do not function in the mainstream of the community. Also, many unidentified children with disabilities are preschoolers. Parents may not be aware that there are programs and services available.

If you know of a child with a disability, please contact your local building principal or Kiersten A. Rogers, Director of Special Education Services at (513) 367-4169.

DUE PROCESS is strictly adhered to for students who might deviate from the general pattern of education learning and need special kinds of help. Parents are always notified, and a conference is held for cooperative planning. Conferences with parents are requested when a child is having educational or behavioral problems.

Miami Whitewater Elementary is committed to meeting the needs of all students. We have a staff of specialists to help students with their individual needs including speech and language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, school psychologists, a guidance counselor, special education teachers, and a school nurse. In addition, the Hamilton County Board of Education provides other specialists on an individual basis including a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Registered Behavior Technicians. We are pleased with the services that these individuals provide to our building, and we encourage parents to call if you have questions about any of these programs.



GENERAL INFORMATION

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE OF STUDENTS

School Hours are as follows:

- Full-Day Kindergarten and Grades 1-5 9:10 AM to 3:40 PM
- AM Kindergarten 9:10 AM to 11:55 AM
- PM Kindergarten 12:55 PM to 3:40 PM

Arrival

Car riders are not to arrive to school prior to 8:40 AM. Doors will remain locked until 8:40 AM. **Please do not release students from cars until 8:40 AM.** Car riders shall use the front of the school for drop-off and pick-up.

Departure

Miami Whitewater is continuing our partnership with SchoolSAFE ID to make our dismissal procedures safer and more efficient for our everyday car riders. The system allows MWE staff to track every student who is a car rider. All vehicles pulling into the lot at dismissal will have a yellow vehicle hang tag with a number that matches their child's backpack tag (grades 1-5 only). The number will be entered into our devices while students remain in their classrooms until their tag number pops up on their teacher's screen. Car riders exit the building through the main front doors and will meet their ride at the color-coordinated cone along the front sidewalk of the building. Drivers must pull all the way up to the next available spot and not stop right in front of the school. If you plan on exiting your vehicle and waiting for your child on the front walkway or by the flagpole, please use a parking space but remember to grab your hang tag so we can enter the appropriate number.

If your student typically is a bus rider and there is a need to pick your child up at the end of the day, we ask that you communicate with your child's teacher via a written note or message on ParentSquare. We also ask that you call the front office **before 3:00 PM** to let the office know of any transportation changes. For irregular pick-ups, we do not require families to obtain one of our SmartSAFE Dismissal tags, rather we ask that you park your vehicle and come into the office to pick your student up.

As a reminder, all cars should enter at our main entrance and should not pull into the bus lot between MWE & Harrison Junior School. This presents a safety hazard for our students. End of day dismissal for PM/Full-Day Kindergarten and students in grades 1-5 will start taking place when our bell rings at 3:40.

For Kindergarten Arrival/Departure: Parents and guardians should stay to the left as you round the bend in front of school. Kindergarten students will need to be dropped off and picked up at the exterior Kindergarten doors by an adult. Kindergarten students with older siblings can walk out with them as long as parents notify the Kdg. teacher giving permission in advance. Once your tag number has been entered in the system, the older sibling will pick up the kindergarten student and meet you in the carpool lane.

Once again, thank you for your patience with these procedures. Our goal is to keep our students safe and have accountability measures in place to give parents and guardians peace of mind!



ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies will be planned throughout the year to broaden each child's educational experience and to develop self-discipline in large groups.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance by all students is very important. In many cases, irregular attendance is the major reason for poor schoolwork; therefore, all students are urged to make appointments, do personal errands, etc., outside of school hours.

Reasons for which students may be excused include, but are not limited to:

1. personal illness of the student;
2. illness in the student's family necessitating the presence of the child;
3. quarantine for contagious disease;
4. emergency or other set of circumstances in which the judgment of the Superintendent constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence from school, which may include but not be limited to absences due to documented medical, behavioral or dental appointments;
5. needed at home to perform necessary work directly and exclusively for parents or legal guardians for a limited period of time when approved in advance by the Superintendent (applies to students over 14 years of age only when all statutory obligations have been met for such excusal);
6. death in the family (applies to absences of up to 18 school hours unless a reasonable cause may be shown for a longer absence);
7. up to three religious expression days per school year in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3320.04;
8. traveling out of state to attend a Board-approved enrichment activity or extracurricular activity (applies to absences of up to 24 school hours);
9. post-secondary visitation, for which a student may be marked as "present" for such absences for up to three days per school year;
10. pre-enlistment reporting to a military enlistment processing station, for which a student may be marked as "present" if the absence is used to help fulfill graduation requirements;
11. absences of a student of a military family for purposes of visiting their parent, legal guardian or custodian who is an active duty member of the uniformed services that has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting;



12. absences due to a student's placement in foster care or change in foster care placement or any court proceedings related to their foster care status;
13. absences due to a student being homeless;
14. attending a driver education course outside of core curriculum (applies to absences for two hours per day up to eight hours maximum, which cannot exceed four consecutive days or can be nonconsecutive) or
15. as determined by the Superintendent.

The District makes an attempt to contact the parent, guardian, or other person having care of a student who has not notified the school of the student's absence that day regarding that student's absence without legitimate excuse within 120 minutes of the start of the school day. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to determine and use the appropriate notification procedure and methods consistent with State law.

Student make-up work for religious expression days is managed in accordance with State law and Board policy for such absences.

Each student who is absent for reasons other than religious expression days must immediately, upon return to school, make arrangements with his/her teacher(s) to make up work missed. Students who are absent from school for reasons not permitted by State law may, or may not, be permitted to make up work. Each case is considered on its merits by the principal and the respective teacher(s). Students who are absent due to an in-school or out-of-school suspension are permitted to make up missed classroom assignments in accordance with District level policies and procedures. Students are requested to bring a note to school after each absence explaining the reason for the absence or tardiness in accordance with procedures and timelines defined in District level policies and procedures.

The Board does not believe that students should be excused from school for vacations or other nonemergency trips. The responsibility for such absences resides with the parent(s), and they must not expect any work missed by their child to be retaught by the teacher. If the school is notified in advance of such a trip, reasonable efforts are made to prepare a general list of assignments for the student to do while he/she is absent.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The staff and students of Miami Whitewater Elementary would like to participate in special occasions for all students. Snacks that are individually packaged and can be stored in the classroom are permitted. Please refer to the district web page for a complete copy of the [District Wellness Policy](#). To be fair to all students, individual acknowledgments such as flowers, balloons, gifts, etc. are better left handled at home.

CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT

Any employee of the SLSD having reason to believe that a child less than eighteen (18) years of age or any crippled or otherwise physically or mentally handicapped child under twenty-two (22) years



of age has suffered any wound, injury, disability, or other condition of such a nature as to reasonably indicate physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect of the child shall immediately report such information to the building principal.

After reporting the information to the building's principal, the employee shall then report the same information to the Children's Service Board (241-KIDS) or to the municipal or county law enforcement agency. The principal shall, on the same day, file a written report with the Superintendent or his/her designee concerning the matter. The report, which can be anonymous, shall be made immediately by telephone or in person, and shall be followed by a written report, if requested, by the agency. Such a report shall contain:

1. Names and addresses of the child and his/her parent(s) or person(s) having custody of the child
2. The child's age and nature and extent of the injury, abuse, or neglect, including any evidence of previous injuries, abuse, or neglect
3. Any information which may be helpful in establishing the cause of the injury, or abuse or neglect

The principal or designee may take or cause to be taken color photographs of areas of trauma visible on a child.

Any report made because of this policy and Ohio Revised Code section 2151.421 shall be maintained as confidential and available only to the person making the initial complaint, administrator filing the report, superintendent of schools, board of education and legally constituted authorities entitled to said report pursuant to section 2151.421 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Procedures for reporting will be made known to the school staff. A person who participates in making such reports is immune from any civil or criminal liability provided the report is made in good faith.

Each person employed by the Board to work as an elementary school nurse, teacher, counselor, school psychologist, or administrator shall complete at least four hours of in-service training in child abuse awareness training.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/CHANGE OF CUSTODY

Any change of address or custody for your student should be changed in [Final Forms](#), with the necessary forms uploaded. This would include court documents and proof of residency.

CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place twice a year. Once in the Fall and once in the Winter.

Fall ~ October 1 & 6, 2026

Winter ~ February 4 & 9, 2027

COUNSELOR REFERRALS

Parents or administrators may refer students to the school counselor. Students may refer themselves also. Parents who wish to refer their child may do so by calling the counselor at (513)



367-5577 or emailing Nicole Lee - nicole.lee@southwestschools.org and providing appropriate background information.

We also have school-based counselors from Cincinnati Children's Hospital who provide education and mental health treatment for children facing significant social, behavioral, and learning challenges. You may call the office for a referral or reach out to your child's teacher.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Parents are responsible for picking children up promptly from extracurricular activities. At the discretion of the activity advisor and/or principal, those students who are repeatedly picked up late may be dismissed from the respective program.

The extracurricular activities that we've offered in the past include:

- Lego Masters
- Starting Artist
- Girls on the Run
- Chess Club
- Board Game Club
- Puzzle Club
- Harry Potter Club
- Swiftie Society
- Lightning Squad
- Basketball Club
- Soccer Club
- Karate Club
- Yoga Club
- Music & Movement
- Cats that Care
- Karaoke Club
- Heart & Art
- And more!!!

FEES

All students in half-day Kindergarten through 5th grade have school fees set by the Board of Education, which is used to purchase educational materials and other items used by each student. The fee for the 2026-2027 school year will be \$75.00. Full day Kindergarten students will have this fee as well as the full-day tuition of \$3,960 added to their student accounts. Student fees will not get posted to student accounts until closer to the end of the 1st Quarter. Payments can be made online by going to our Parent Portal (<https://mywildcats.me>) and then logging into the PayForIt site. We also accept cash or checks made out to Southwest Local School District.



FIELD TRIPS

Various field trips are scheduled to supplement the regular educational program and give students firsthand experiences in topics discussed in the classroom. Students may be charged a minimal transportation fee as well as the cost of the field trip. **To ensure proper supervision, only custodial parents/guardians may chaperone students unless prior approval is obtained from the principal. Chaperones are not permitted to bring siblings on field trips.** Students going on the field trip must have a signed permission slip to participate. All students will remain with their class during the field trip and must travel and return to school with the bus transportation provided.

School-sponsored trips – Travel by students, whether local or distant, is not school-sponsored unless such travel is either:

1. Provided by District-owned, leased, or contracted vehicles, or otherwise provided and paid for by the district
2. Or provided by formal action of the Board of Education and escorted by District employees who have been specifically authorized in writing by the school administration to participate in the trip to supervise students.

The Board of Education does not and cannot prohibit student participation in non-school sponsored trips promoted by individuals or organizations so long as the trips do not interfere with student involvement in the regular school curriculum. Further, the Board of Education does not and cannot warrant, guarantee, or take any position as to the reliability of any individual or organization who sponsors and solicits students to participate in non-school sponsored trips, or as to the quality of such trips. Students who participate in non-school sponsored activities, parents who authorize student participation, and the sponsors of such activities take responsibility for any consequences that arise from such participation. The Board of Education does not accept any responsibility for non-school sponsored activities.

Employees of the Board of Education who solicit students to participate in non-school sponsored trips and related activities are acting outside the scope of their employment and official responsibilities and are not acting as employees of agents of the School District. The Board cannot be aware of all non-school sponsored trips in which students, parents or staff members acting as individuals may become involved. Therefore, the Board cannot accept any responsibility for notifying participants that such activities are not school-sponsored. It is the responsibility of each participant to determine whether a particular trip is school-sponsored, and whether school-sponsored or not, to make their own independent assessment of the risks involved. The superintendent stands ready to answer all inquiries as to whether a particular trip is school sponsored.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Students are helped by adults who are assigned to the entrances to help get the student to his/her room. At the end of the day, helpers are also available to make sure everyone gets on the proper bus. Parents and guardians are not allowed to walk children to classrooms on the first day or throughout the school year.



If your child goes to a sitter, please be sure the sitter's phone number is in Final Forms under Emergency Contacts. Please be sure the child knows both the first and last name and address of the sitter.

It is also pertinent that all forms are updated in Final Forms before the start of the new year. When completing forms, please make sure to check the family income box when completing the Food Services Information.

GRADING SCALE/PROMOTION/RETENTION

Grading Scale			
98-100	A+	78-79	C+
93-97	A	73-77	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
88-89	B+	68-69	D+
83-87	B	63-67	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
		0-59	F

In the elementary grades, promotion to the next grade or group is based primarily upon teacher judgment and recommendation except as indicated below. Teacher decisions are subject to review by the principal and superintendent. The legal authority for assignment rests with the superintendent. However, the superintendent may delegate this authority to the principal. The primary consideration shall be what is best for the child. All cases of non-promotion should be discussed with the child's parents prior to the end of the school year.

In Kindergarten, which does not assess student performance by using a letter grade system (A-F), promotion/retention is based on teacher recommendation.

In grades 1-5, a failing grade (F) in two of the Competency Based subject areas (Mathematics, Reading, Writing, Science, and Citizenship) or an F in one CBE subject and reading below grade level initiates a discussion of the possibility of retention. A committee consisting of the classroom teacher, the principal, and other people with information relevant to the child's progress, i.e. tutors, psychologists, will be notified and will have input in the discussion.

This policy prohibits the promotion of a student to the next grade level if the student has been truant for more than 10% of the required attendance days of the current school year and has failed two or more of the required curriculum subject areas in the current grade unless the student's principal and the teachers of any failed subject agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the next grade level.



For students entering grade 3 beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, promotion to grade 4 will be based upon Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.608 in addition to passing CBE subjects as outlined above. Any student who fails to attain a passing grade on the 3rd grade OST reading achievement test shall not be promoted to grade 4 unless either of the following applies: 1) the pupil was excused from taking the test based upon an IEP or 2) the pupil's principal and reading teacher agree that the pupil is academically prepared for promotion to the next grade level.

Criteria used to determine promotion/retention will include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Overall grades
2. Teacher and principal recommendations based upon:
 - a. Tests (teacher made, company produced, Ohio Department of Education test materials, CBE assessment, and standardized tests)
 - b. Mastery of pupil performance objectives
 - c. Student Attendance

HALLWAYS

P.E. teachers appreciate your attempts to stay in top racing form all year, but the halls are not the place to practice your running. Students should go to and from other rooms quietly. Others are working, and we want to make sure that we all learn as much as possible while in school.

We expect students to adhere to the following hallway rules:

- Keep your hands to yourself.
- Keep a low noise level upon entering and exiting the building.
- Do not push, especially at the water bottle fill stations.
- Never run in the halls.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Belief Statement

Homework can play a significant role in the academic success of the students. It is assigned as an extension of the classroom. Homework provides opportunities to practice newly acquired skills and develops appropriate work and study habits. As the teacher reviews the assignments, an assessment of the students' understanding is possible, and lessons are planned accordingly. For these reasons, the staff at Miami Whitewater Elementary School put an appropriate emphasis on homework and have developed the following homework policy.

Expectations

Teachers are expected to provide assignments which are meaningful, challenging, and relevant. They are expected to provide appropriate, timely feedback to the students and to communicate problems to the parents/guardians. This includes notes and phone calls regarding incomplete assignments or the lack of parent/guardian signatures. Teachers should ensure that homework is completed by maintaining a system of rewards and consequences. The teachers will provide time for the students to complete their plan books and will check for parent/guardian signatures and completed assignments each day.

Students are expected to complete all homework assignments on time and to the best of their ability. They are expected to turn in a neat, presentable assignment when requested. Reading



assigned materials and studying for tests are both considered homework. The students are responsible for completing the plan book each day and for conveying information to the parents/guardians.

Missing assignments will be noted in the student's plan book. These assignments should be completed the next day. A student who habitually does not adhere to the homework policy will be subject to the teacher and building discipline procedures.

Parents/guardians are expected to establish homework as a priority for their children. As such, they should ensure that the children have a quiet time and place to complete assignments. Parents/guardians should provide positive support when homework is completed and not allow the students to get out of doing homework. Problems with homework should be communicated to the teacher. Parents are expected to review and sign the student plan books each night for students in grades 3-5 and the homework papers for students in grades 1 and 2

Grading

Assignments which are completed and returned on time will receive full credit. Overall, homework will account for a maximum of 40% of a student's grade.

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

Research has shown that starting the day with a nutritious breakfast helps students stay alert and perform better in school. Southwest Local School District offers breakfast at all school buildings! We begin serving thirty (30) minutes before the start of every school day. For MWE, this means our breakfast begins at 8:40 AM when our front doors unlock. Each student is also scheduled for a forty five (45) minute lunch period, including recess.

New this year, Miami Whitewater Elementary School will be participating in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP). As a part of this program, students may receive one complete meal for breakfast and one complete meal for lunch, free of charge, during their scheduled meal times. Students will still have the option of either purchasing a hot lunch from school or they may bring a packed lunch from home. Students are given several healthy drink choices; therefore, we ask that students do not bring soda. Please refer to the District Wellness Policy. All students are expected to eat lunch and it is to be consumed in the cafeteria with their class. Proper manners are expected while eating so that everyone may have an enjoyable lunch period.

Parents are encouraged to pre-pay for and ala carte purchases that their students may make throughout the school year such as a water, additional milk, or snack when available."



DISTRICT WELLNESS POLICY

The Southwest Local School District is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness practices. In accordance with Federal Public Law (PL108.265 Section 204) the Board of Education adopted a District Wellness Policy in June 2006. The complete wellness policy is available on the district website at <https://southwestschools.org>

Key aspects of this plan include:

- Students are offered a variety of meats/poultry, fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
- All foods made available on campus adhere to food safety and security.
- School parties should include no more than one food or beverage that does not meet nutritional standards.
- For safety concerns, parents/caregivers are encouraged to provide individually packaged commercially prepared products.
- Fundraising efforts are supportive of healthy eating.

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

As a parent of a student in the Southwest Local School District, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for the following information: whether the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades or subject taught; whether the ODE allows the teacher to teach without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances; the teacher's college major, advanced degrees and subjects of the degrees; whether any teachers' aides provide services to your child and their qualifications. If you wish to receive this information, please contact the district office at (513) 367-4139.

PHONE CALLS/MESSAGES

Phone calls to the school to give messages to a student should be kept to a minimum and to those of emergency or very important matters only. Students will not be called to the phone for messages. Nor will they be permitted to make phone calls of non-immediate nature. Furthermore, students will not be permitted to call home for work that has been forgotten.

PICTURES

Individual pictures are taken each fall. Class photos are taken in the winter. Notices will be sent home regarding the cost for both picture days. Everyone will get their photo taken, regardless of if their families paid for pictures.

Our picture days for the 2026-2027 School Year will be on:

- Fall Picture Day – Tuesday, September 22
- Fall Picture Re-Takes – Friday, November 13
- Class Picture Day – Monday, February 22



PROGRESS BOOK

The Southwest Local School District has in place an online reporting program that allows parents and guardians access to a student's grades, progress, and daily attendance. Your registration key for creating an account is under Student/Parent Access Codes in Final Forms.

To download the app on your mobile device, you will go to the Apple App Store or to Android Apps on Google Play and search for "ProgressBook Parent/Student" to find the Frontline ProgressBook Parent/Student mobile app and download the app.

Teachers will regularly update ProgressBook to keep parents/guardians updated on student progress and missing assignments in the time between Progress Reports or Parent/Teacher Conferences. Parents are expected to monitor this system on a regular basis as well to view grades and missing work. Phone calls, notes, and other communication is expected between the parents and teacher when poor grades or missing assignments are a concern. Grades should be present in every content area for every grading period. If you have any questions about the grades that you see in Progress Book, please contact the teacher directly to clarify any confusion that may be present. This can be a great tool for both parents and teachers when used correctly, but requires regular use by both parties to be successful.

PROCEDURES – STATE-MANDATED TESTING

Each year, our students participate in a wide variety of assessments. These include screening and/or diagnostic/achievement testing. The grade levels assessed and the subject areas identified for testing at each grade level are determined by the state and federal directives. As legislation changes from year to year, the testing schedule varies from one school year to the next.

The Assistant Superintendent, High School Guidance Head, and elementary building principals shall be responsible for all test security within the district. No unauthorized person shall have access to any secure test materials.

Any hard-copy paper tests shall be sent to the Assistant Superintendent who shall take the tests to the respective buildings. The building test coordinators shall count and distribute tests to certified members who shall administer the tests. The tests shall be returned to the building test coordinators who shall account for all copies and administration manuals and who shall deliver the tests to the Assistant Superintendent for shipping. Most of the state and other required assessments are now administered digitally.

Grading, Scoring, and Record Keeping

All test materials shall be returned to the designated location within 24 hours of the conclusion of any regular or make-up testing session. The school district will receive within 60 days of the end of any test period, a report including the following: a pass/fail score for each student in each area tested, for each child who has failed a test area, suggestions for improvement, and a building/district summary for each grade and test area.

The Southwest Local School District shall permit access to a student's test results to parent(s) or eligible students in accordance with the provisions of 3301-13-01 of the administrative code and 3319.321 of the Ohio Revised Code. Such requests shall be made in writing to the head of the guidance department or elementary building principal.



Consequences for Cheating on State Mandated Tests

Cheating on any of the state-mandated tests should be considered a *suspendable* offense. The following activities should be considered cheating and not permitted on state-mandated tests: looking at someone else's answer sheet, giving or receiving assistance, working ahead or behind, use of scratch paper, notes, any calculating device, and foreign language or other dictionaries.

Use of State Tests to Meet Requirements

Amended Substitute House Bill (HB) 55, signed into law, authorizes districts to use any of the state tests required by 3301.0711 of the Ohio Revised Code as the competency assessment required by Section 3301.0715 of the Ohio Revised Code if the district determines that state tests appropriately measure progress toward achieving any performance objectives specified at the same grade.

PTO

Miami Whitewater Elementary has a wonderful and active parent organization.

We encourage every parent to join this group, pitch in on projects, and make MWE the best school for your children to attend. You can email them at MiamiWhitewaterPTO@gmail.com.

REGISTRATION

Registration for all Southwest Schools for Kindergarten through 12th grade is completed online in Final Forms. Go to the district website and follow the link for Student Registration for details. You will be required to show a birth certificate, proof of residency, and proof of custody/guardianship if applicable as well as a copy of their current report card for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade.

It is important for students who are in grades 9-12 to bring an unofficial copy of their transcripts. When your registration is complete, you will need to have an appointment with a guidance counselor to schedule courses. The guidance counselor will need to see a transcript to assign a student to appropriate classes. The lack of a transcript could delay this process.

Please be sure to update Final Forms if there any changes in address or custody after registration.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Parent Square will be used to communicate closing or delay information. Please be sure we have your most current contact information in Final Forms and opt in to the service by responding Y to a text



from 67587. Parents are reminded that, on days when the opening of school is delayed two (2) hours, the AM Kindergarten will be cancelled.

If looking for a school closing or delay on local news channels, please keep in mind that you will look for our district name: Southwest Local Schools.

TEXTBOOKS/WORKBOOKS/COMPUTERS

Textbooks, workbooks, and computers are provided for students by the Board of Education. Once they have been distributed, they become the responsibility of the student but remain the property of the district. Please stress with your child the responsibility for these items. Fines will be assessed for damaged or lost items.

VOLUNTEERS

MWE fully understands the crucial roles carried out by volunteers in the education of our students. It is through the collective efforts of our school staff, our parents, and the community at large that lead to our mission of “Academic & Social Growth for ALL Students, Every Day!” being lived out. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to your student’s teacher, the building principal, or the PTO. Please note that, unless given direct permission from the principal beforehand, we cannot allow siblings – younger or older – to be present during your volunteer hours.

DISCIPLINE

BEHAVIOR

Essentially, the right of a student to attend a public school is dependent upon his/her compliance with school rules and regulations. While at MWE, a student is expected to behave appropriately and properly. Behaviors that disrupt the learning atmosphere are not permitted.

BUS CONDUCT AND RULES

The Southwest Local School District Board of Education is committed to ensuring the safe and efficient operation of its school buses. Pursuant to ORC 3327, students riding district school buses may have bus riding privileges suspended for any violation of the following Code of Conduct. The school bus driver has the authority to enforce established regulations for school bus conduct. Disorderly conduct or refusal to submit to the authority of the bus driver will be sufficient reason for refusing or suspending transportation services to any student.



1. Students must ride assigned buses. Only students assigned to a particular bus route will be permitted to board unless granted permission by the transportation supervisor.
2. Students must board and exit the bus at the locations to which they have been assigned.
3. Students must be at the place of safety for their designated bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. The bus will not stop if pupils are not waiting at the bus stop.
4. Parents are responsible for the conduct and safety of their child to and from the bus stop.
5. If crossing the street at any time, students must wait for the driver's signal before starting to cross, look right and left, and then cross the street.
6. Riders must go directly to an assigned or available seat.
7. Students must always remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear. Pupils must remain seated until the bus comes to a full and complete stop.
8. Students must observe typical classroom conduct while on the bus and obey the driver promptly and respectfully.
9. Students may not yell/scream, stomp feet, clap hands, or call out to passers-by as loud, unexpected noises are often responsible for causing accidents.
10. Students may not eat or drink on the bus. Food items must be kept in a lunchbox, bag, backpack, or other closed container.
11. Students should help keep the bus clean, sanitary, and orderly and should not leave anything behind upon exiting the bus.
12. All parts of the rider's body shall be kept inside the bus at all times.
13. Students may not throw or pass objects from or onto the bus.
14. Students may not tamper with emergency doors, controls, or windows.
15. Parents will be responsible for any damage to a bus done by their children.
16. Riders may carry on the bus only objects that can be held on their laps or stored in such a way as to keep aisles and exits clear.
17. Objects that are glass or flammable or could be used as weapons are prohibited on the bus.
18. Absolute quiet must be maintained at all railroad crossings and during extreme bad weather so the driver may listen for important signals or information.
19. There will be three evacuation drills per year – a front exit, a rear exit, and a split front and rear exit.
20. Parents/guardians are not permitted to enter the bus. Any concerns must be addressed with the building administrator or transportation director.

HAZING/BULLYING

“Be it hereby resolved that it is the policy of the Southwest Local Board of Education and School District that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times. No administrator, faculty member or other employee of the school district shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate any hazing/bullying/intimidation activities. No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing/bullying/intimidation.



Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does *not* lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

Bullying is defined as the act of being habitually cruel or overbearing to another person.

Administrators, faculty members, and all other employees of the school district should be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events which might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing/bullying/intimidation is discovered, involved students shall be informed by the discovering school employee of the prohibition contained in this policy and shall be required to end all hazing activities immediately. All hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent.

Administrators, faculty members, students, and all other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with Ohio law. The contents of this policy shall be distributed in writing to all students and school district employees following its official adoption by the Board of Education. In addition, this policy shall be incorporated into building, staff and student handbooks, and shall be subject of discussion at employee staff meetings or in-service programs.”



SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT GUIDELINES

SLSD recognizes its responsibility to provide all students with an environment conducive to the development of their maximum learning potential. The Code of Conduct supports this endeavor for both in-person or remote environments. The Code of Conduct is adopted by the Board pursuant to state law.

Any student engaging in the following types of conduct either specifically or generally, in-person or through a remote environment (virtually) like the type of conduct listed below is subject to suspension, expulsion, emergency removal or permanent exclusion from curricular or extracurricular activities pursuant to State law. This Code of Regulations applies while a student is in the custody or control of the school, on school grounds or close proximity thereto, while at a school-sponsored function or activity, or on school-owned or provided transportation vehicles. In addition, the Code of Regulations governs a student's conduct at all times, on or off school property and in the virtual environment, unless specifically limited to school property as stated in a regulation, when such student conduct is reasonably related to the health and safety of other students and/or school employees, or such conduct would unreasonably interrupt the educational processes of the District.

The SLSD Progressive Discipline Code is divided into four (4) levels. Each level represents progressively more serious misbehavior and consequences. The level of discipline shall be based on the severity of the misbehavior and the number of infractions involved with each referral. **The Administration reserves the right to skip levels of discipline depending upon the violation.** Although it may be necessary, school removal is used as a last resort.

The law requires that students are provided with a written notice of intent to suspend prior to being suspended. State law also requires that students and parents are provided with a written notice of intent to expel. The written notice of intent to suspend shall be given to the student at an informal hearing. The notice of intent to expel shall be sent to the student and the parents will be provided an opportunity for an informal hearing prior to a decision to expel.

A student or the parents may appeal any decision of the District administration to suspend a student from school to the Treasurer. A student or parent must request a **suspension appeal** in writing within **5 days** after the discipline measure takes effect. A student or the parents may appeal an expulsion from school to the Board/designee. A student or parent must request an **expulsion appeal** in writing within **14 days** after the discipline measure takes effect. Appeal requests must be made in writing to the district Treasurer. The appeal process includes an additional informal meeting with a hearing officer. The student and parents may be represented in all appeal hearings but notice to the SLSD District Office is requested if bringing legal representation to reduce the chances of a possible rescheduling of the hearing. Pursuant to State law, a student or parents may further appeal an expulsion or suspension to the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas.

It is the policy of the Board that students shall not be permitted to return to school pending any appeal process with the administration or the court. The District will make every effort to promptly hear all appeals to minimize a student's absence from school. Should the Board, the Superintendent, or their designees reverse or modify a discipline decision and permit a student to return to school, such student shall be permitted ample time to make up all assignments and work missed as a result of his/her absence.



Expectation: Students are expected to be an active part of a safe and respectful environment at all times and to not interfere with the learning of others or the orderly process of the school building. The types of conduct prohibited by the Southwest Local School District Code of Conduct are as follows:

Level I Discipline:

Level I Discipline is used for minor acts of misconduct which interfere with orderly school procedures, school functions, extracurricular programs, approved transportation, or a student’s own learning process. Most Level I infractions are expected to be taken care of through student compliance with staff responses. If a student fails to follow basic staff directives in the classroom, they will be referred to the office for further intervention.

Staff Interventions

- Verbal Warning
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- PBIS Classroom Consequence
- Teacher Assigned AM or PM Detention
- Use of Temporary Setting
- Recess Detention
- Lunch Detention
- Office Referral for Repeated Violations

Administrative Interventions:

- Conference with Student
- Administrative Warning
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Recess Detention
- Lunch Detention
- Administrative Detention
- Use of Temporary Alternative Setting

Code	Description
100	Failure to abide by mask policy as established by administration and the Board of Education
101	Misbehavior which disrupts or interferes with any school activity
102	Disrespect to a student
103	Disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school authorities
104	Tardy to class
105	Failure to abide by reasonable dress and appearance codes as established by administration and the Board of Education
106	Non-approved use of district-owned technology
107	Non-approved use of personal technology, including cell phones
108	Sales or soliciting on school property without permission of school authorities
109	Use of nuisance items during the instructional day, while participating in school-sponsored activities, or while utilizing school district transportation



Level II Discipline:

Level II Discipline offenses are intermediate acts of misconduct that typically require administrative intervention. These acts include, but are not limited to, repeated but unrelated, acts of minor misconduct and misbehavior directed against persons or property but which do not seriously endanger the health, safety, or well-being of others. Consideration of necessary behavior support services should be given, if not already provided, as school removal is used as a last resort. Due process procedures required by federal and state law will be followed. These may include such procedures as the procedural safeguards provided by the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Staff Interventions:

- Verbal Warning
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- PBIS Classroom Consequence
- Teacher Assigned AM or PM Detention
- Use of Temporary Alternative Setting
- Office Referral for Repeated Violations

Administrative Interventions:

- Conference with Student
- Administrative Warning
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Detention
- ALP – Alternative Learning Placement
- ASA – Alternate School Assignment (In-School Suspension)
- Use of Temporary Alternative Setting
- Emergency Removal
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- Removal of privilege to attend or participate in extracurricular activities and events

Code	Description
201	Repeated or escalated misbehavior which disrupts or interferes with any school activity
202	Repeated or escalated disrespect to a student
203	Repeated or escalated disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school authorities
204	Disrespect to a teacher or other school authority
205	Use of cursing/obscene gestures: the use of indecent language in oral or written form or the use of obscene gestures
206	Repeated non-approved use of technology or disruption of the educational process through the non-approved use of technology
207	Forgery of school or school-related documents
208	Cheating or plagiarizing
209	Distribution of pamphlets, leaflets, buttons, insignia, etc. without the permission of proper school authorities or the placing of signs and slogans on school property or at school events without the permission of the proper authorities
210	Minor petty theft



211	Skipping class
212	Disobedience of driving regulations
213	Presence in areas during school hours or outside school hours where a student has no legitimate business without permission of a school administrator or a teacher
214	Leaving the classroom without permission
215	Engaging in activities that may cause fear or panic in an individual or group
216	Refusing to receive or serve properly administered discipline (Detention, ASA, ALP)
217	Repeated violations of the 100 Codes

Level III Discipline:

Level III Discipline offenses are serious acts of misconduct including, but not limited to, repeated misbehavior that is similar in nature, serious disruptions of the school environment, threats to health, safety, or property, and other acts of serious misconduct. These offenses must be reported to the principal. Such acts may also result in criminal penalties being imposed. Due process procedures required by federal and state law will be followed. These may include such procedures as the procedural safeguards provided by the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Staff Interventions:

- Office Referral
- Notify Administration Immediately

Administrative Interventions:

- Use of Behavior Intervention Process
- Long-Term Loss of Technology Privileges
- ALP – Alternative Learning Placement
- ASA – Alternate School Assignment (In-School Suspension)
- Emergency Removal
- Removal of privilege to attend or participate in extracurricular activities and events
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

Code	Description
301	Failure to report the actions or plans of another person to a teacher or administrator where these actions or plans of another person, if carried out, could or did result in harm to another person or persons or damage property, when the student has information about such actions or plans
302	Disrespect to student by using derogatory and/or discriminatory language in verbal or written form
303	Ongoing or highly escalated disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school authorities resulting in disruption of the learning environment
304	Engaging in activities that may cause fear or panic in an individual or group
305	Disrespect to student or inappropriate behavior that involves physical contact with another student on the part of the individual
306	Fightint
307	Engaging in activities to promote conflict between students
308	Falsifying information given to school authorities in the legitimate pursuit of their jobs or interfering with the administrative investigation



309	Willfully aiding another person to violate school regulations and/or interfering with school investigation
310	Theft or possession of stolen student property
311	Leaving school building/property without permission of proper school authority
312	Damage or destruction of school property on or off of school premises
313	Damage or destruction of private property
314	On school property or participation in school activities (on campus or off campus) while suspended or expelled without permission
315	Displaying excessive affection, inappropriate touching or other inappropriate behavior
316	Possession of obscene, pornographic, or libelous material
317	Removal from assigned alternative learning placement (ALP, ASA)
318	Misuse of chemical substances
319	Smoking, using, or possessing any substance containing nicotine, including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, a pipe, rolling papers, a clove cigarette, e-cigarettes, vapes, and chewing tobacco, or paraphernalia such as matches or lighters or use of tobacco in any other form. As provided in 3313.751, Ohio Revised Code, it shall be a violation of this rule to use or possess tobacco in any form while on school premises or at any school activity regardless of time or location.
320	Distributing any substance containing nicotine, including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, a pipe, rolling papers, a clove cigarette, e-cigarettes, vapes, and chewing tobacco, or paraphernalia such as matches or lighters or use of tobacco in any other form. As provided in 3313.751, Ohio Revised Code, it shall be a violation of this rule to use or possess tobacco in any form while on school premises or at any school activity regardless of time or location.
321	Inappropriate use of computers and other technologies. Inappropriate use includes vandalism, theft, or misuse of the hardware, unauthorized access to files not belonging to the student, tampering with security software or network privileges; logging onto the network with a fraudulent ID or password; using the facilities without proper supervision, installation of software on a computer or network, or unauthorized use, copying, or downloading of programs, files and/or pictures.
322	Audio recording, video recording, or photographing of any student or staff member without the explicit knowledge and permission of the student, staff member, and the school administration.
323	Demonstrations by individuals or groups causing disruption to the school program
324	Gambling
325	Any other activity by a student which the student knows or should know will disrupt the academic process or a curricular or extracurricular activity while on school premises or while in the control or custody of the school district regardless of whether on or off of school premises, or at a school-related activity regardless of location.
326	Repeated violations of the 200 Codes

Level IV Discipline:

Level IV Discipline offenses are the most serious acts of misconduct. These offenses must be immediately reported to the administration. These violations are so serious that they may require use of outside agencies and/or law enforcement. Such acts may also result in criminal penalties being imposed. Due process procedures required by federal and state law will be followed. These may



include such procedures as the procedural safeguards provided by the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Staff Interventions:

- Office Referral
- Notify Administration Immediately

Administrative Interventions:

- Use of Behavior Intervention Process
- Multiple Day Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- Recommendation for expulsion
- Removal of privilege to attend or participate in extracurricular activities and events

Principals may suspend a student for up to ten (10) days. If a student is recommended for expulsion, the SLSD District Office will arrange for a hearing with the Superintendent or an established designee to determine if the situation requires further discipline beyond the ten days of suspension.

Code	Description
401	Hazing, threatening, harassment, intimidation or bullying of students based upon personal attributes or beliefs on/off school grounds. For purposes of this policy, the term “harassment, intimidation or bullying” means any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act toward a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior: (1) causes mental or physical harm to the other student; and (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student.
402	Hazing, threatening, or harassment of school personnel. Threats may be based upon personal attributes or beliefs, on or off school grounds, or engaging in activities that may cause fear or panic in an individual or group.
403	Engaging in escalated activities that may cause fear or panic in an individual or group
404	Oral, written, or social media threats to harm individuals, groups, or school community
405	Disrespect to staff or inappropriate behavior that involves physical contact with staff on the part of the individual
406	Disregard of staff direction attempting to de-escalate confrontation or attempting to continue conflict despite staff intervention
407	Assault on school employee or another person
408	Assault on student
409	Extortion of student or school personnel
410	Theft or possession of school property or school employee property
411	Engaging in any sexual acts
412	Indecent exposure
413	Using or being under the influence of any controlled substance (drugs, narcotics, intoxicant, THC, marijuana, etc.) or inhalant or any counterfeit controlled substance (any substance that is made to look like a controlled substance, or is represented to be a controlled substance, or that the student believes is a controlled substance).
414	Possessing or buying any controlled substance or paraphernalia (drugs, narcotics, intoxicant, THC, marijuana, etc.) or any counterfeit controlled substance (any substance



	that is made to look like a controlled substance, or is represented to be a controlled substance, or that the student believes is a controlled substance).
415	Selling or distributing any controlled substance or paraphernalia (drugs, narcotics, intoxicant, THC, marijuana, etc.) or any counterfeit controlled substance (any substance that is made to look like a controlled substance, or is represented to be a controlled substance, or that the student believes is a controlled substance).
416	Buying, selling, transferring, using, or in possession of any substance prohibited by school administration including but not limited to over-the-counter medications.
417	Possessing, using, or being under the influence of an intoxicant of any kind including but not limited to alcoholic beverages.
418	Sale or distribution of an intoxicant or intoxicant paraphernalia of any kind including but not limited to alcoholic beverages or alcohol paraphernalia.
419	The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise. The activity may also constitute a crime under state and/or federal law which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and lifetime inclusion on sexual offender registries.
420	Violation of the district's sexual harassment policy. See policy ACAA
421	Turning in false fire, tornado, bomb, or disaster alarms. (As provided in Ohio Revised Code 3313.66 (A) (5), a student may be expelled for a period of up to one year for making a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the same time of the threat. The period of expulsion shall extend as necessary into the next school year.)
422	Arson or any other improper use of fire
423	Possession and/or discharge of any explosive substance or incendiary device
424	Possession, conveyance, or use of a firearm. Firearms are identified in Section 921 of Title 18, United States Code. (As provided in Ohio Revised Code 3313.66 and 3313.661 violations of the Code of Conduct involving firearms are subject to expulsion from school for one year).
425	Convey, attempt to convey, possess or use any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like a firearm.
426	Sale/distribution of any instrument, device, or object which is designed to look like a firearm
427	Convey, attempt to convey, possess, or use any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like any other type of weapon.
428	Sale/distribution of weapons, or any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like any type of weapon.
429	Sale/distribution of any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like any other type of weapon.
430	Possession and/or discharge of any explosive substance or incendiary device
431	Commission by a student of any crime or infraction in violation of the Criminal Code, Traffic Code or Juvenile Code of the State of Ohio or, when applicable, of the State in which the crime or infraction was committed. This provision shall apply to any student while in the control or custody of the school district regardless of whether the act occurred on or off school premises, or at a school-related activity regardless of location.
432	Any type of prohibited activity listed herein engaged in by a student on school premises, on a school bus, or while in the control or custody of the school district regardless of



	whether on or off of school premises, or at a school-related activity regardless of location, shall be reason for expulsion, suspension or removal from school.
433	Repeated 300 Code infractions
434	Repeated 400 Code infractions

The administration reserves the right to skip levels of discipline depending on the number of infractions for each referral and the severity of the violation.

Dangerous Weapons

The Board is committed to providing the students of the Southwest Local School District with an education environment which is free of the dangers of firearms, knives and other dangerous weapons in the schools.

The definition of a firearm shall include any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C.A. Sections 921-924), which includes but is not limited to any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas; bomb, grenade or rocket having a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces; missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter (1/4) ounce, mine or device similar to any of the devices described above.

Students are prohibited from bringing a firearm on school property, in a school vehicle or to any school sponsored activity, the Superintendent shall expel this student from school for a period of one calendar year. Any student who possesses a firearm which was initially brought onto school property by another person may be expelled by the Superintendent, at his/her discretion. In addition, the Superintendent shall notify the appropriate criminal justice or juvenile delinquency authorities. Any expulsion shall extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident occurred. The Superintendent may reduce this requirement on a case-by-case basis in accordance with State Law. Reasons for such a reduction would include, but not be limited to, the expiration of the year occurring near the beginning of a school year, the nature of the weapon, manifestation of a student's disability and other mitigating circumstances. Students are also prohibited from bringing a knife to or possessing a knife (which was initially brought by another person) onto school property, in a school vehicle or to any school-sponsored activity. The definition of a knife includes but is not limited to a cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade fastened to a handle. If a student brings a knife on school property, in a school vehicle or to any school-sponsored activity, the Superintendent may expel the student from school, with the same expulsion implications as noted above.

Students who possess or use other dangerous weapons, which are defined but not limited to metal knuckles, straight razors, explosives, nervous irritation or poisonous gases, poisons, drugs, or other items possessed with the intent to use, sell, harm, threaten or harass students, staff members, parents, or community members, may be subject to expulsion.



Drug and Alcohol Policy

The Southwest Local Schools Board of Education recognizes that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful.

At the beginning of each school year, each student and his/her parent/guardian will be given a copy of the standards of conduct and a statement of disciplinary sanction that are required during the orientation process. These standards notify parents, guardians, and students that compliance with these standards of conduct is mandatory.

Any student found in possession of or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol at school, at a school sponsored event, or on a Board operated transportation vehicle will be immediately suspended from school for 10 days and recommended for expulsion.

Students who are first time offenders and who appeal their expulsion recommendation must bring the results of an assessment from a Southwest Local School District approved drug and alcohol specialist/agency/facility to the expulsion hearing. These materials and the student's and parents' plan to prevent future problems will be reviewed by the Superintendent or designee and a determination will be made as to whether the student should be allowed back to school after completion of his/her suspension. Any student who does not completely comply with the recommendations of the drug and alcohol assessment and the school administration will be expelled from school for the duration of his/her expulsion recommendation.

All "sellers/distributors" and drug and alcohol "repeat-offenders" will be recommended for expulsion. The assessment option will not be available to "seller/distributors" or "repeat-offenders."

All drug "sellers/distributors" and/or students who are in possession of illegal drugs will be reported to a local law enforcement agency. The Southwest Local Schools recognize the importance of guidance activities which provide support to students who are experiencing problems either directly or indirectly due to alcohol and other drug use. Therefore, programs such as "peer counseling," individual guidance, support groups and mentorship programs will be utilized as a means of providing support and guidance to students within the school environment.

Searches

Pursuant to Section 3313.20 (C), Revised Code, the Board of Education has adopted a policy permitting the administrators of this school district to:

1. Declare that lockers/desks are the property of the Board of Education, and these lockers/desks and contents thereof are subject to search at any time.
2. Conduct random searches of locker/desk searches. Searches of all or limited number of lockers/desks may be conducted at any time in accordance with federal and state laws as well as Board policy.
3. Search specific lockers/desks and the contents thereof if the administrator reasonable suspects the locker/desk or its contents contain evidence of a pupil's violation of a criminal statute or of a school rule.
4. Search at any time the locker/desk and contents thereof of any pupil if an emergency exists or appears to exist that immediately threatens the health or safety of any person, or threatens the health or safety of any person, or threatens to damage or destroy any property under the control of the Board.



5. Conduct a search of a student or personal property if the administrator has reasonable suspicion to believe that a student possesses a dangerous weapon, contraband, illegal or stolen item. The administrator may search the student or his/her personal property. Remove the item and contact any appropriate authorities. All personal searches will be conducted in the presence of another school employee. School district employees are prohibited from conducting strip searches.
6. Use security devices which protect the health and safety of the school community. Such devices may include metal detectors, surveillance cameras, entry systems, identification badges, facility regulations, etc. Individual searches utilizing security devices will be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion. Random searches will be conducted in accordance with reasonable standards adopted by the administration.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment will not be tolerated in the Southwest Local School District. Students are expected to be free from unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Most inappropriate sexual behavior violations should be handled as violations of the discipline code.

Examples of behavior which is prohibited by this policy are:

1. Repeated flirtations, advances, or propositions
2. Intentionally making physical contact
3. Making graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's dress or body
4. Making sexually degrading words to describe an individual
5. Aggressively displaying objects or photographs of a sexual nature
6. Telling sexually explicit or obscene jokes
7. Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, etc.

If a student has been or is being sexually harassed on school property or at a school related event, it shall be promptly reported to a staff member (teachers, administrator, counselor, coach, advisor, etc.).

Occurrences involving students, as offenders will be processed in the same manner as other infractions of Board adopted rules and regulations regarding suspension/expulsion and other disciplinary situations. Verified sexual harassment allegations could result in suspension, expulsion, referral to law enforcement agencies, and/or recommendations for counseling.

Occurrences involving employees as offenders toward students will be investigated by the grievance office. The information obtained from the investigations will be reported to the superintendent for proper disposition.

Occurrences involving members of the public as offenders toward students will be reported to an appropriate law enforcement agency.



Dress Code

1. Clothing and accessories that could be interpreted as promoting hate or communicating a negative, profane, or vulgar message are not permitted. Additionally, jewelry and accessories that pose a safety concern for the student or others are not acceptable.
2. Undergarments should not be visible. Tops that expose the midriff or chest, tank tops, mesh tops, and shirts with no sleeves are not acceptable. Pants, shorts, and skirts must be worn at waist level.
3. No head coverings (hats, bandanas, hood, etc.) or gloves should be worn during the school day.
4. No oversized coats are permitted during the school day.
5. Shorts, skirts, and dresses should reach to the length of the mid-thigh or lower and not be overly revealing.
6. Footwear should be safe for the learning environment.

In judgmental situations, it should be emphasized that the building administrator will have the final determination of the appropriateness of dress.

**Exceptions to these dress code items for religious reasons should be brought to administration at the beginning of the school year by parents and will require written documentation.

Lunchroom Rules

1. All students are to be seated in an orderly manner in their seat.
2. They are to remain seated until they have finished with their meal.
3. No soft drinks
4. Students may converse with their immediate neighbors by using a low, controlled voice.
5. Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves when finished. A garbage can will be brought to the tables for the students to throw away their trash.
6. Dismissal will occur upon the direction of the supervising adult.
7. No food or drinks should leave the cafeteria.
8. Visitors may not attend lunch with students.
9. No food deliveries to students (i.e. Uber Eats, Door Dash, or Grubhub)

NOTE: Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds during lunch, nor may the students have visitors join them for lunch.

Playground Rules

Safety is the number one concern on the playground. As such:

- Balls and Frisbees are the only objects that should be thrown.
- No one is to leave the playground without the teacher's permission.
- Students should remain in the designated play areas in view of the supervisor.
- Absolutely no fighting, rough play, or body contact which may result in injury. If another student starts a fight with you, report it to the supervisor immediately. Fighting is not permitted. If you join in, you will receive a punishment.
- Good sportsmanship is expected, as is showing respect to the teachers on duty.



- Do not disturb other students' games.

Students are to line up immediately when the duty teacher blows their whistle. Students should re-enter the building quietly. Students must always walk in the hallways. No running is permitted in the building except in the gym. Teachers should be visible in the classroom door or in the hall. All children are to go outside unless a note has been sent from home requesting the child stay inside due to illness or a teacher or principal has given the child permission to stay indoors for a specific work task.

Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices – Addendum 6/20/2024

Ohio's Cellphones in Schools Model Policy

To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates, their teachers, and instruction, the Board has determined the use of cellphones by students during school hours should be limited.

The objective of this policy is to strengthen the district's focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our schools.

Research shows that student use of cellphones in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cellphones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cellphone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

This policy applies to the use of cellphones by students while on school property during school hours. Students are prohibited from using cellphones at all times.

Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cellphone for a purpose documented in the student's individualized education program (IEP) developed under Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code or a plan developed under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794.

A student may use a cellphone to monitor or address a health concern.

Students shall keep their cellphones in a secure place, such as the student's locker, a closed backpack, or a storage device provided by the district, at all times when cellphone use is prohibited.

If a student violates this policy, a teacher or administrator shall take the following progressively serious disciplinary measures:

- **1st Offense:** Give the student a verbal warning and place the student's cellphone in the school's central office for the remainder of the school day.
- **2nd Offense:** Assign first level of progressive discipline. Place the student's cellphone in the school's central office to be picked up by the student's parent or guardian.
- **3rd Offense:** Assign second level of progressive discipline. Place the student's cellphone in the school's central office to be picked up by the student's parent or guardian.
- **4th Offense:** Assign third level of progressive discipline. Place the students in the school's central office to be picked up by the student's parent or guardian.



- Additional offenses will result in further progressive discipline and a behavior plan conference with the student and the student's family.

MEDICAL CONCERNS

Allergies (Bee stings, etc.)

If your child has an allergy or any physical condition that we should be aware of, please make the teacher and office staff aware of this.

Immunizations and Physical Examinations

Physical and dental examinations are required for all students entering school for the first time. Immunizations, according to State Law and the County Health Department, are required before a student enrolls in the Southwest Local School District. If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact the school office at (513) 367-5577.

Medication

The drug to be administered to the student must be in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescribing physician or a licensed pharmacist when it is given to the Board employee authorized to administer the drug. A PERMISSION TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION FORM must be completed and on file in the office.

Each time drugs are administered to a student, a written record of that fact shall be maintained by the employee administering the drug on the form designated "Record of the Administration of Prescription Drugs".

Over-the-counter, non-prescription drugs will be administered for one day with a note from the parent. If the medication needs to be given for more than one day, the parent must fill out the PERMISSION TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION FORM and list the name of the non-prescription drug, when it is to be administered, and the dosage. If this medication is to stay at school for the school year, the form must be signed by a doctor. All drugs must be in their original container. Schedule II drugs to be administered at school must be transported to or from the building by the parent, guardian, or other responsible adult.

RECORDS

Access to Records – Parent/Guardian

A parent/guardian may inspect and review records concerning a student. Such inspection must take place only in the presence of a school official (principal or designee) so that proper interpretation and security is provided for. A written release must be completed for this to occur.

Access to Records – Non-Custodial Parent

A non-custodial parent has the right to inspect and review records unless a court order or divorce decree states otherwise. Furthermore, non-custodial parents have the right to conference with the teacher unless a court order or divorce decree states to the contrary. The stepparent, however, may conference with the teacher only in the presence of the natural parent unless he/she has adopted the child or has power of attorney. It is imperative that the school have a copy of these documents so that these situations can be resolved.



Adults Who Are Legal Custodians, Legal Guardians, Adoptive Parents, or Foster Parents

For the protection of your child, copies of legal documents verifying any of the above must be maintained on file in the school file.

Confidentiality – Records

Cumulative records shall be directly accessible only to the professional staff, the student (18 years of age or older), and parents or legal guardian of a student under 18 years of age. Information is collected only in the course of a professional relationship with a student and in compliance with state and federal law. Records are kept under lock and key and are under the supervision of the principal.

Emergency Medical Contact and Online Forms

Emergency Medical Information is now completed online. This also includes Internet Use and Emergency Medical Forms which are required for field trips. These forms are extremely important in case of an emergency; this is the only means available for us to contact you. You will find these forms online at southwestharrison-oh.finalforms.com/. You can also complete the free/reduced lunch form on this site.

SAFETY

Fire Drill

When the alarm rings, students are to exit quickly in an orderly fashion. The teacher will take roll, so you must remain with your class. A fire drill will be held monthly to keep you familiar with the procedure in case of a real fire or if we need to evacuate the building. A fire drill route is posted in your classroom.

Tornado Drill

A tornado drill will be conducted each month during the Spring to keep you familiar with what to do in case of a tornado or high winds. You are expected to go to your assigned area quickly and quietly. While there, you will need to sit on the floor with your hands over your head during this drill. Your assigned area is posted in your classroom.

Emergency Procedures

Miami Whitewater Elementary as well as all buildings in the Southwest Local School District have developed Safety Plans that address a wide range of emergency situations. These plans were developed with the assistance of an outside consultant, parents, staff, and administrators. The plans are in place to allow staff to employ appropriate procedures to ensure the safety of children and adults at school. The Miami Whitewater Elementary School's evacuation plan has our emergency evacuation location at the Harrison HS Activity Center. This site will be declared off limits to all except emergency personnel. While at this site, the principal or lead teacher will be in charge.

Any questions about injuries, welfare, or location of any student during an emergency situation will be responded to by the person in charge. We ask that parents not come to school or the evacuation site to pick up children until notified by authorities or school personnel. If parents have questions regarding safety procedures, they are encouraged to call the school office.



Early Dismissal

In the event school is dismissed earlier than usual (inclement weather, etc.), please have alternative plans made (sitter arrangements, etc.) so that your child knows where he/she is supposed to go for proper supervision.

Newspapers – Photographs, Names, Internet

Periodically, press releases to local newspapers are made highlighting various activities, program, or personnel. In some instances, name and/or photographs of students are used in the articles. If you wish that your child's name or photograph **not** be used, please indicate this on the form provided at the back of the handbook and return it to the school office.

Periodically, information regarding school activities is published on the district's and/or school's web page. This information may include names of students for specific accomplishments, honors, etc. If you do not want your child's name/pictures on the school webpage, please indicate this on the form provided at the back of the handbook and return it to the school office.

Also, there is an SLSD Internet Use Policy-Parent or Guardian Permission Form found online that give your permission for your child(ren) to use the resources on the Internet, with supervision, in the classroom.



RIGHTS AND PERMISSIONS

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Statute: 20 U.S.C.1232g. Regulations: 34 CFR Part 99

Southwest Local Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) afford parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

- 1) The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal or appropriate school official a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will plan for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- 2) The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible student who wish to ask the school to amend a record should write the school principal or appropriate school official, clearly identify the part of the record they want changes and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible students of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible students when notified of the right to a hearing.
- 3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instruction or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as disciplinary, or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses educational records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
- 4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Southwest Local Schools to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:
 - a. Family Policy Compliance Office
US Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington DC, 20202-8520



Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

Statute: 20 U.S.C. 1232h Regulations: 34 CFR Part 98

Southwest Local School District

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection, and use of information for marketing purposes and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the US Department of Education –

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's family.
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family.
3. Sex behavior or attitudes.
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior.
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close relationships.
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers.
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by the law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –

1. Any other protected informational surveys, regardless of funding.
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving the collection, disclosure or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect upon request and before administration or use –

1. Protected information surveys of students
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old, or an emancipated minor under State law. Southwest Local School District has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Southwest Local School District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. A copy of these policies will also be available on the district website, www.southwestschools.org. Southwest Local School District will also directly notify, such as through the US Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt her or his child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. Southwest Local School District will make this



notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the district has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided with reasonable notification of the planned activities or surveys listed below and will be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided with an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys.

Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

1. Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
2. Administration of any protected information surveys not funded in whole or part by the Dept. of Education.
3. Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
US Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington DC 20202-8520



SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INTERNET/ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS

The Southwest Local School District offers students internet / network access and the use of the District computers, as well as the ability to bring their own device and access the Internet. The district may issue student email accounts. We are dedicated to access and the support of appropriate technology which unlocks our potential and connects us locally and worldwide.

Individuals are warned that some material accessible via the network or the Internet might contain items that are inaccurate, inappropriate, or potentially offensive to some people. While the district's intent is to make internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits to the students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. Proper teacher supervision will be provided; however, it is still the responsibility of each student to make appropriate choices. Internet access will be filtered through a firewall that is provided by HCCA. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources and upholding the Internet /Network Acceptable Use Policy for Students.

The purpose of this agreement is to provide network and internet access for educational purposes. The intent of the policy is to ensure that students will comply with all network and internet access acceptable use regulations approved by the district and in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. If this form is not returned to the building within 2 weeks of receipt, then student network privileges will be denied.

Upon reviewing, signing, and returning this policy, each student will receive internet and network privileges with the district. If the student is under 18 years of age, the student must have his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) read and sign the policy as well. The district will not provide access to any student who has not returned an appropriately signed Internet/ Acceptable Use Policy for Students.

Following are the provisions of this policy regarding computer internet and network access. If any user violates the terms and/or provisions of the policy, the user's access will be denied, and the person may be subject to further disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and/or Board policies and this may affect their class grade.

In exchange for the use of the network resources and access to the internet while on school property, I understand and agree to the following:

- A. Use of the network and the internet is a privilege which may be revoked by the district at any time. Any misuse of this privilege will result in suspension of the account privileges and/or other disciplinary action as determined by the district. Misuse shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Altering of system software
 - b. Use of obscene language
 - c. Placing unauthorized information, computer viruses, or harmful programs on or through the computer system either in public or private files or messages.
 - d. Intentionally seeking information on, obtaining copies of, or modifying files, or other data or passwords belonging to other users.
 - e. Misrepresenting other users on the network.



- f. Disrupting the operation of the network through abuse of the hardware or software.
 - g. Utilizing the network maliciously through hate mail, harassment, profanity, vulgar statements, or discriminatory remarks
 - h. Interfering with other use of the network
 - i. Using the network extensively for non-educational related communication.
 - j. Illegally installed copyrighted software.
 - k. Unauthorized downloading, copying, or use of licensed or copyrighted software.
 - l. Allowing anyone to use an account other than the account holder.
 - m. Intentionally damaging computer systems.
 - n. Using another's password.
 - o. Trespassing in another's folder, work, or files which may be in violation of conditions dealing with students' and employees' rights to privacy.
 - p. Reposting (forwarding) personal communication without the author's prior consent.
 - q. Using the network for financial gain, for commercial activity, or for any illegal activity.
 - r. Using the network/internet in an inappropriate manner not consistent with valid educational goals.
 - s. Using the network in furtherance of or violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
 - t. Using the network to access social networking sites or blogs.
- B. The district maintains rights to any materials stored in files which are accessible to others and will remove any material which the district, at its sole discretion, believes may be unlawful, obscene, pornographic, abusive, and otherwise objectionable. Students will not use their district computer accounts/access to obtain, view, download, or otherwise gain access to such materials.
- C. All information, services, and features contained on district or network resources are intended for the private use of its registered users and use of these resources for commercial, for profit, or other unauthorized purposes (i.e. advertisements, political lobbying, etc.), in any form is expressly prohibited.
- D. The district and/or network resources are intended for the exclusive use by the registered users. The user is responsible for the use of his or her account/password and/or access privilege. Any problems which arise from the use of a student's account are the responsibility of the account holder. Use of an account by someone other than the registered account holder is forbidden and may be grounds for loss of access privileges.
- E. The district does not warrant that functions of the system will meet any specific requirements that user may have, or that it will be error-free or uninterrupted; nor shall the district be liable for any direct or indirect, incidental, or consequential damages (including loss of data, information, or time) sustained in connection with the use, operation, or inability to use the system.
- F. The student may not transfer file(s), shareware, or software from information services and electronic bulletin boards. Without such permission, the student will be liable to pay the cost or fee of any file, shareware, or software transferred, whether intentional or accidental. In addition, the student will be liable to pay the cost of any repairs and/or additional



programming required as a result of transferring file(s), shareware, or software from information services and electronic bulletin boards.

- G. The use of Southwest Local School District owned information technology and the internet is not private. Network and internet access is provided as a tool for educational purposes. The district reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review, and store at any time, without prior notice, any and all usage of the computer network and internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All information files shall be and remain the property of the district and no user shall have any exception of privacy regarding such materials. Administrators reserve the right to examine, use and disclose any data found on the school's information networks in order to further the health, safety, discipline or security of any student or other person or to protect property. Administrators may also use this information in disciplinary action and will furnish evidence of a crime to it.
- H. The district makes no warranties of any kind, either express or implied, in connection with this provision of access to and use of its computer network and internet under this agreement. The district shall not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages, or costs (including attorney's fees) of any kinds suffered, directly or indirectly, by any user or his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) arising out of the users' use of the district's computer network / internet under this agreement. By signing this agreement, users and/or their parent(s) or guardian(s) are taking full responsibility for usage and are agreeing to indemnify and hold the district, the data acquisition site, and all administrators, teachers and staff harmless from all loss, cost, claims, or damages resulting from the user's access to the computer network / internet, including but not limited to, any fees or charges incurred through the purchase of goods or services by the user. The user, or if the user is a minor, the user's parent(s) or guardian(s), agree to cooperate with the district in the event the district initiates an investigation of a user's use of his or her access to the computer network and the internet, whether that use is on a school computer or a computer outside the district network.
- I. Users may be asked from time to time to provide new or additional registration and account information, which shall be provided by the user if he or she wishes to continue to receive access to services.



SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INTERNET/ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS

Student Agreement

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the terms of the Internet/Network Acceptable Use Policy for Students. All rules regarding network and internet access, including email will be available in hard copy in each principal's office. Should I commit any violation or in any way misuse the network/internet, I understand that my access privilege may be revoked, that school disciplinary action may be taken against me under the Student Code of Conduct, and that this may affect my class grade.

Student Name (please print) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Homeroom Teacher _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Agreement

As the student's parent or legal guardian, I have read, understand, and agree that my child shall comply with the terms of the school district's Internet/Network Acceptable Use Policy for Students. I understand that this access is being provided to the students for educational purposes only. I agree that this policy will hold harmless and indemnify the school district for any fees, expenses, or damages incurred as a result of my child's purposeful use or misuse of the network, access to the internet, or computer equipment.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____



SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PERMISSION TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION

School personnel are not authorized to administer medicine to a student unless prescribed by a medical doctor or as recommended by the parents or guardian. In both instances, a permission form must be on file in the building principal's office.

Student's Name	
Student's Address	
Phone Number	
School	
Grade Level	
A. Diagnosis	
B. Name of Medication	
C. Dosage	
D. Time to be given	
E. Duration of time to be given	
F. Date medication started	
G. Possible severe adverse reactions	
H. Phone number(s) where physician can be reached	1. 2.

Physician's Signature

School personnel are absolved of any liability in case of reaction to the prescribed medication. All drugs must be received by the person authorized to administer the medication in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescribing physician or a licensed pharmacist. As the parent/guardian of the above student, your signature on this form constitutes a written request for the listed drug to be administered to said student and an agreement to submit a revised statement signed by the physician if the previously provided information changes.

Parent/Guardian Signature



INTERNET/WEBSITE

Periodically, information regarding school and student activities is published on the Southwest Local School District and/or Miami Whitewater Elementary School website. This information may include names of students for specific accomplishments, honors, etc.

If you wish that your child(ren)'s name(s), **not** be used, please indicate on the form below, sign, and return to the school office.

_____ I wish that the names of my child(ren) **not** be used on the Southwest Local School District and/or Miami Whitewater Elementary School website.

Child(ren)'s Name(s):

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____



NEWSPAPERS - PHOTOGRAPHS AND NAMES

Periodically, press releases to local newspapers are made highlighting various activities, programs, and student achievements. In some instances, names and/or photographs of students are used in the articles.

If you wish that your child(ren)'s name(s) or photograph(s) **not** be used, please indicate on the form below, sign, and return the form to the school office.

_____ I wish that the name(s) and/or photographs of my child(ren) **not** be used in newspaper articles.

Child(ren)'s Name(s):

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____